

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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R 281035Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2364

UNCLAS ATHENS 0823

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: RENTAL OF ADDITIONAL MARINE HOUSE

REF: STATE 3951, ATHENS 384

1. A NEW HOUSE WAS OBTAINED FOR THE MARINES BECAUSE THE OLD ONE WITH 6 INDIVIDUAL VERY SMALL APARTMENTS WAS INEFFICIENT TO MANAGE AND MAINTAIN, AND WAS CROWDED WITH 11 MEN. THE 2 ADDITIONAL MARINES WHO ARRIVED FOR PERMANENT DUTY DECEMBER 12, 1975 COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACCOMMODATED IN THE OLD MARINE HOUSE. THE PRESENT HOUSE WAS SELECTED AFTER LOOKING AT 16 OTHER PROSPECTIVE MARINE QUARTERS IN ATHENS. THIRTEEN-BEDROOM APARTMENTS/HOUSES LOCATED NEAR THE EMBASSY ARE NON-EXISTENT OR PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE TO RENT OR MAINTAIN. THE MOVE TO THE PRESENT HOUSE PROVIDED CROWDED BEDROOM SPACE, 3 MEN TO 1 ROOM, 2 BEDROOMS HAVE 2 MEN EACH, ETC., BUT IT WAS THE BEST AVAILABLE. IT ALSO DOES NOT HAVE SPACE FOR RECREATIONAL USE DURING THE MARINES OFF-DUTY HOURS. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO SPACE TO BILLET ADDITIONAL TDY MARINES. A REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE FOR 4 MARINES TO BE ASSIGNED TDY IN ATHENS, REFERENCE ATHENS TELEGRAM 0756 DATED 1/26/76

2. THE EMBASSY PROPOSES TO RENT AN APARTMENT TO BE USED AS AN ANNEX TO THE PRESENT MSG HOUSE, AND REQUESTS APPROVAL TO RENT THIS APARTMENT WHICH IS LOCATED NEXT TO THE PRESENT MARINE HOUSE. THIS WOULD PROVIDE IDEAL SLEEPING ACCOMODATIONS FOR 5 OR 6 MARINES AT A COST OF ABOUT \$312 PER MONTH FOR RENT. THE LANDLADY WANTS TO RENT THE APARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SHE LIVES ON THE GROUND FLOOR, AND AGREES TO THE USE OF HER UPSTAIRS APARTMENT AS BEDROOMS FOR MARINES

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3. BY MOVING SOME OF THE MARINES FROM THE PRESENT MARINE HOUSE MORE BEDROOM AND STORAGE SPACE WILL BE PROVIDED, MORE OCCUPANT BEDROOMS WILL BE AVAILABLE, AND SPACE WILL BE RELEASED FOR RECREATIONAL USE SUCH AS A READING ROOM, GAME ROOM, ETC. ALL OF THESE FACTORS ARE NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE HIGH MORALE. THE ANNEX ACQUISITION WILL BE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN PROVIDING A COMFORTABLE HOME FOR REST AND RELAXATION FOR THE MARINES DURING OFF-DUTY HOURS. EARLY DEPARTMENT APPROVAL FOR THE ANNEX RENTAL IS REQUESTED
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